

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 00224 150909Z

15

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /100 W

----- 105856

R 150650Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774

UNCLAS SUVA 0224

EB/TT/OA FOR MEADOWS AND EA/ANP FOR LANGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FJ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF: A. STATE 50660; B. SUVA 0206

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED COPIES PANAM LETTERS (PARA 1 REF A) MARCH 13 AND HAND-DELIVERED THEM TO DEPUTY PRIMIN'S OFFICE SAME DATE. DPM OUT OF TOWN AND WILL NOT SEE THEM UNTIL RETURN, SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18.

2. REGARDING PANAM'S REQUEST TO OPERATE AMERICAN ROUTE (PARA 3 REF A), EMBASSY HAS ALREADY TAKEN INITIATIVE OF SENDING DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO DEPT FONAFF STATING EMBASSY'S BELIEF THAT TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FROM AMERICAN TO PANAM CONSISTENT WITH FONAFF NOTE OF FEB 25 (NOT FEB 26 AS STATED REF A). NOTE SENT ON SUGGESTION FROM FONAFF OFFICIAL WHO INFORMED CHARGE WORKING GROUP WOULD MEET AFTERNOON MAR 15. FONAFF PREPARED SUPPORT PANAM'S REQUEST AND OFFICIAL THOUGHT EMBASSY NOTE WOULD ASSIST. IN VIEW URGENCY EMBASSY WOULD NOT CLEAR LANGUAGE WITH DEPT, BUT DREW ON LANGUAGE CONTAINED REF A WHICH WAS RECEIVED MORNING MAR 15.

3. IN RELATED MATTER, FIJI TIMES MAR 15 CARRIES REPORT OF PRIMIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN SAVUSAVU (ON SECOND LARGEST ISLAND, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SUVA 00224 150909Z

WHERE CABINET HAS BEEN ON FACT-FINDING TOUR). TIMES REPORTER

ASKED PRIMIN IF GOF WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO BAN US AIRLINES FROM NADI IN RELATION FOR US REFUSAL TO GIVE AIR PACIFIC RIGHTS TO PAGO ON FIJI'S TERMS. IN RESPONSE PRIMIN SAID US NOW HAS BETTER SIDE OF DEAL BECAUSE IT HAS RIGHTS TO FIJI WHILE FIJI HAS NO RIGHTS TO US TERRITORY. IF US WILL NOT GIVE AIR PACIFIC RIGHTS TO PAGO, THEN US AIRLINES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED FLY TO FIJI. ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF FIJI PREPARED CANCEL US RIGHTS, PRIMIN RESPONDED YES, ADDING THAT THIS WAS MATTER FOR USG AS WELL AS GOF TO CONSIDER. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT SOFTA LETTER TO DPM (REF B) PRIMIN SAID HE WAS SORRY SOFTA HAD TAKEN THIS ATTITUDE WITHOUT CONSULTING DEPT OF FONAFF.

4. CHARGE MET MINFIN STINSON MORNING MAR 15 ON ANOTHER MATTER, BUT STINSON TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PRESENT STATE OF PLAY REGARDING GOF-USG CIVAIR PROBLEMS. STINSON FORMERLY HELD CIVAIR PORTFOLIO AND RETAINS INTEREST IN MATTER. HE SAID AS MINFIN HE HAS STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING CONTINUATION OF US AIR SERVICE TO FIJI BUT BELIEVES, AS DO MOST FIJIANS, THAT US BEING EXCESSIVELY TOUGH ON SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY, AND SAID HE HOPES WE FULLY REALIZED THAT BOTH PM AND DPM ARE PROUD MEN WHO ARE CAPABLE OF CANCELLING US RIGHTS IF THEY FEEL FIJI IS BEING UNFAIRLY TREATED. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO TELL STINSON OF PANAM INTEREST IN CONSORTIUM. HE THOUGHT IT A GOOD IDEA (HE CLAIMED HE HAD IN FACT SUGGESTED IT SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BUT WAS TOLD THEN IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE) BUT BELIEVED OTHER COMMERCIAL PARTNERS MIGHT OBJECT. HALL

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Message Attributes

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